

84 Red-crested Pochard



RED-CRESTED POCHARD (*Netta rufina*)

IDENTIFICATION

53-57 cm. **Male** with red-chestnut head; black breast and tail coverts; white flanks; wings chestnut with a white band; red bill. **Female** pale brown; chestnut crown and white cheeks; bill greyish with pink tip.

SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

SEXING

Male in **breeding** plumage unmistakable with head and nape red-chestnut; breast and upper and undertail coverts black; white flanks; white leading edge of wing; reddish iris and bill; in **non breeding** plumage similar to **female** but distinguishable by red iris and bill and by white leading edge of wing. **Female** with brown body; head brown on crown and white on cheeks and hindneck; leading edge of wing similar as rest of wing coverts; iris reddish-brown and bill brown with pinkish tip. **Juvenile** birds similar but **male** has whiter the leading edge of wings.

AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile similar to **female** but with narrow tail feathers; greater coverts narrow and with rounded tips; grey bill; pale brown iris.

1st year autumn/2nd year spring with juvenile flight feathers retained. **Male** with duller and mottled underparts than the **adult male**; **female** with upperparts and crown greyer-brown than the **adult female**.

Adult with greater coverts broad and with rounded tips. **Male** with black underparts.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, acquiring eclipse plumage, usually finished in September. Partial **postjuvenile** moult changing body feathers, tail and tertials; usually finished in October. Both types of age have a partial **pre-breeding** moult acquiring breeding plumage.

PHENOLOGY

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

STATUS IN ARAGON

Very scarce breeder with most of the breeding pairs in Estanca of Chiprana. More common in winter widespread throughout the Region.